

Montana Communicable Disease Weekly Update: 07/02/10



DISEASE INFORMATION

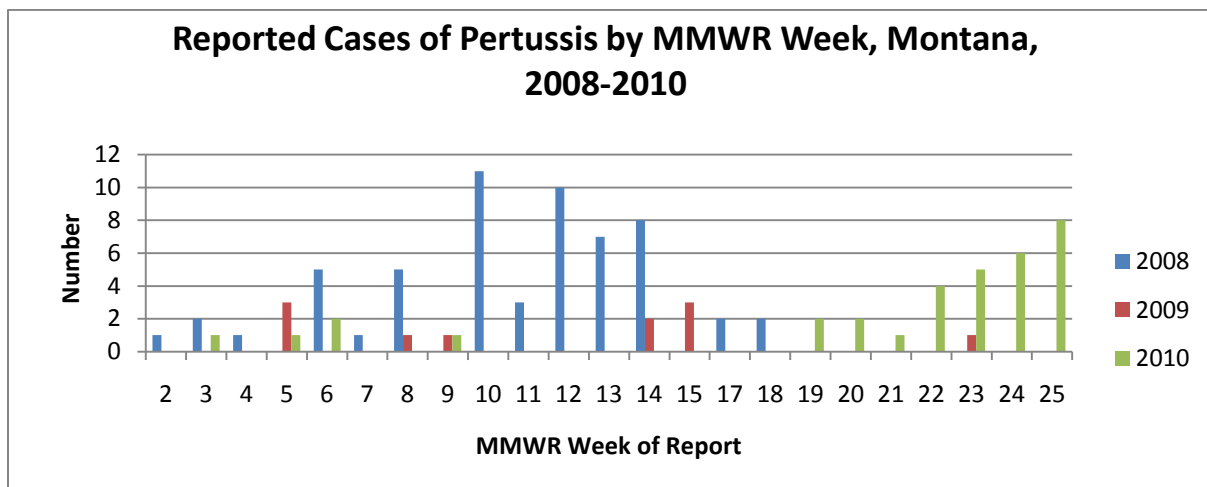
Summary – Week 25 - Ending 6/26/10 – Disease reports received at DPHHS during the reporting period June 20-26, 2010 included the following:

- Vaccine Preventable Diseases: Pertussis (8), invasive *Streptococcus pneumoniae* (2), Varicella (4)
- Enteric Diseases: Campylobacteriosis (3), *E. coli* 0157 (2), Salmonellosis (3), Yersiniosis (1)
- Other Conditions: Aseptic meningitis (1), Legionellosis (1), Viral meningitis (1)
- Travel Related Conditions: None

NOTE: The report has multiple pages reflecting the following information: (1) vaccine preventable and enteric diseases YTD; (2) other communicable diseases YTD; (3) cases just this week; (4) clusters and outbreaks; and (5) an STD summary.

THE "BUZZ"

Pertussis – California has declared an outbreak of pertussis in their state, with a 4-fold increase in cases compared to the same time period in 2009. http://www.calhospitalprepare.org/sites/epbackup.org/files/resources/Pertussis_CDPH_6.23.10.pdf Although there is no outbreak in Montana, we are seeing an increased number of cases. There have been 33 reported cases of pertussis in 2010 to date, 26 occurring since mid-May. Please remind providers to "think pertussis" and do PCR testing for this condition in patients. Recent cases have occurred in Gallatin, Hill, Lewis & Clark, Rosebud (cluster) and Yellowstone counties.



Vaccinate for pertussis - both children and adults! Talking points about pertussis are attached. More information: <http://www.cdc.gov/Features/Pertussis/>

Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever Increase - Between June 13 and 17 there have been four reports of Rocky Mountain spotted fever (RMSF) illness, three in MT residents and one in a traveler. RMSF is an acute tick-borne illness caused by the bacterium *Rickettsia rickettsii*. People who become ill with RMSF do not always recall being bitten by a tick. Symptoms associated with RMSF include fever, headache, fatigue, muscle aches, vomiting, nausea, and loss of appetite. A rash may appear 3 – 5 days after fever onset and is present in up to 90% of pediatric cases, and up to 60% of adult cases. Infection with *R. rickettsia* can cause severe illness and appropriate antibiotic treatment should be initiated IMMEDIATELY when RMSF is suspected on the basis of clinical and epidemiologic findings. A recent HAN outlined recommendations for clinicians if they suspect RMSF:

- Send an acute serum sample to a reference laboratory or to the Montana Department of Public Health Laboratory for a tick-borne disease serology panel

- Follow-up with a convalescent serum sample 2 – 4 weeks post – illness onset to confirm a four – fold rise in IgG antibody titer
- Do not delay treatment while awaiting lab test results. Doxycycline is the drug of choice for treatment in children and adults. <http://www.cdc.gov/ticks/treatment.html>
- Collect exposure history from patient including a geographic location where a tick bite may have occurred
- Report all suspected and confirmed cases of RMSF to your local health department

More information about RMSF is available on the web at:

http://www.cdc.gov/ticks/diseases/rocky_mountain_spotted_fever/index.html

http://www.dphhs.mt.gov/PHSD/epidemiology/documents/SS_RMSF_May2010.pdf

WHAT'S NEW ON THE CDEPI WEB SITE?

- **Bats and Summer Camps in Montana** – This resource assists camp directors and local health departments with bat exclusion and control in summer camp situations.
<http://www.dphhs.mt.gov/PHSD/epidemiology/cdepi-rabies.shtml>
- **Surveillance Snapshot on Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever**
<http://www.dphhs.mt.gov/PHSD/epidemiology/SurveillanceSnapshots.shtml>

INFORMATION / ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW! Stay Away From Bats PSAs – Public Safety Announcements warning children to stay away from bats will begin airing on Montana television and radio stations the week of July 4. This campaign is part of a three year program to educate the public and providers about the prevention of potential rabies exposures. The PSA and materials for camp directors and local health departments can be found at: <http://www.dphhs.mt.gov/PHSD/epidemiology/cdepi-rabies.shtml>.

NEW! West Nile Virus - It's not too early to be thinking about WNV in Montana. Due to the recent wet weather, now may be the time to start reminding people about the importance of mosquito control measures and WNV prevention. If you'd like "Fight the Bite" posters or brochures contact us at (406) 444-0273. CDC WNV educational materials are available at http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/prevention_info.htm.

NEW! Healthy Swimming – The weather is getting warmer and more people will be swimming in Montana.

Follow these six steps for healthy swimming:

- Don't swim when you have diarrhea.
- Don't swallow pool water.
- Practice good hygiene. Shower with soap before swimming and wash your hands after using the toilet or changing diapers. Germs on your body end up in the water.
- Take your kids on bathroom breaks or check diapers often.
- Change diapers in a bathroom or a diaper-changing area and not at poolside.
- Wash your children thoroughly (especially the rear end) with soap and water before they go swimming.

Information about healthy swimming and recreational water illness: <http://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/swimming/>

The ABCs of Hepatitis – This helpful fact sheet from the CDC for professionals has been updated.

<http://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/Resources/Professionals/PDFs/ABCTable.pdf> (color)

http://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/Resources/Professionals/PDFs/ABCTable_BW.pdf (black & white)

One Needle, One Syringe, Only One Time – This campaign led by CDC and the Safe Injection Practices Coalition (SIPC) is intended to raise awareness among patients and healthcare providers about safe injection practices and to eradicate outbreaks resulting from unsafe practices. Since 1999, more than 125,000 patients in the United States have been notified of potential exposure to hepatitis B virus, hepatitis C virus, and HIV due to lapses in basic infection control practices. For more info, visit: <http://www.oneandonlycampaign.org>.

24/7 AVAILABILITY

The Communicable Disease Epidemiology program is available 24 hours a day/7days a week/365 days a year. Please call 406.444.0273 if you need immediate communicable disease epidemiology assistance. The answering service will take a message and we will return the call as quickly as possible.

This newsletter is produced by the Montana Communicable Disease Epidemiology Program. Questions regarding its content should be directed to 406.444.0273 (24/7/365). For more information: <http://cdepi.hhs.mt.gov>.